

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 L-01 H-01 INR-05 PM-03 PA-01
SP-02 IO-06 DLOS-02 OES-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00
NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 /048 W
-----112774 220504Z /21

O R 220405Z FEB 78
FM AMEMBASSY QUITO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7376
AMEMBASSY LIMA IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 QUITO 1121

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PBOR, PEPR, EC, PE, CI
SUBJECT: GOE CONCERN THAT GOP SEEKS TO ESCALATE DISPUTE WITH
ECUADOR

REF: QUITO 1067

1. SUMMARY. FONMIN AYALA SUMMONED CHARGE TO FONMINISTRY
ON EVENING OF FEB. 21 TO DISCUSS CURRENT SITUATION WITH
PERU AND TO INFORM CHARGE THAT HE HAD SUMMONED PERUVIAN
AMBASSADOR FOR AN APPOINTMENT TO EXPRESS CONCERN ABOUT
WHAT ECUADOR CONSIDERS TO BE LARGE NUMBER OF PROVOCATIVE
AND INCITEFUL ARTICLES AND COMMENTS APPEARING IN
PERUVIAN PRESS ABOUT PERUVIAN/ECUADOREAN RELATIONS.
FONMIN AYALA EXPRESSED FEAR THAT GOP MIGHT TAKE ADVANTAGE
OF HIS CALLING IN THE PERUVIAN AMBASSADOR TO AGITATE
FURTHER RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES, BUT STATED
IT WAS A RISK HE WAS COMPELLED TO TAKE. END SUMMARY.

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2. FONMIN AYALA SUMMONED CHARGE TO HIS OFFICE ON
FEB. 21. HE STATED HIS CONCERN THAT GOP WAS SEEKING
TO MAINTAIN CURRENT TROUBLED STATE OF RELATIONS WITH
ECUADOR AND TO INCREASE PERUVIAN DOMESTIC CONCERN ABOUT
THE PROBLEM. AYALA EMPHASIZED VERY STRONGLY THAT ECUADOR
SEEKS ONLY A PACIFIC SOLUTION TO ITS BORDER PROBLEMS

WITH PERU AND IS ANXIOUS FOR RELATIONS TO RETURN TO NORMAL. HE REPEATED THAT ECUADOR WAS IN ABSOLUTELY NO CONDITION FOR ARMED HOSTILITIES WITH PERU AND THAT THE GOE LEADERSHIP WOULD BE IRRESPONSIBLE AND ILLOGICAL TO DO ANYTHING THAT MIGHT LEAD TO WAR. HE RECOUNTED THE HISTORY OF PERUVIAN/ECUADOREAN RELATIONS DURING THE PAST FEW MONTHS, ARGUING THAT ECUADOR HAD SHOWN GREAT RESTRAINT IN ITS EFFORT TO CALM THE SITUATION.

3. AYALA REFERRED TO THE SPEECH OF FONMIN DE LA PUENTE DELIVERED ON FEBRUARY 19 AT SAN PEDRO, IN DEPARTMENT OF LIBERTAD, REGARDING GOP EXPENDITURES FOR ARMAMENTS AS BEING A CHEAP INSURANCE POLICY IN TERMS OF THE VALUE OF PROPERTIES TO BE SECURED. AYALA CATEGORIZED THE SPEECH AS ABSURD, GOADING AND DEMONSTRATING A MATERIALISM THAT EXCEEDED EVEN THAT OF THE SOVIETS. HE ADDED THAT PEACE AND HUMAN LIVES HAVE VALUE THAT CANNOT BE ASSIGNED A PRICE.

4. AYALA READ TO THE CHARGE THE ENTIRE TEXTS OF THREE ARTICLES THAT HAVE APPEARED DURING THE LAST FEW DAYS IN THE PERUVIAN PRESS. THE THEME OF THESE ARTICLES, AS SUMMARIZED IN ONE, WAS THAT "ECUADOR DOES NOT EXIST, IT HAS NEVER EXISTED AS A COUNTRY ONLY AS AN IMAGINARY LINE" AND THAT ECUADOR HISTORICALLY BELONGED TO PERU, SHOULD DISAPPEAR AS A COUNTRY AND RETURN TO THE PERUVIAN
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BOSOM. (ALL THREE ARTICLES WERE FROM THE MAGAZINE "OIGA". TWO WERE FROM ISSUE NO. 6 AND THE OTHER WAS AN EDITORIAL ENTITLED "AGRESION Y LECCION."

5. THE FONMIN ALLEGED THAT IN CONTRAST TO THE ECUADOREAN PRESS, PERUVIAN NEWS MEDIA ARE CONTROLLED BY THE GOP. HE ADMITTED THERE HAD BEEN SOME LOOSENING OF CONTROL RECENTLY BY THE GOP WITH RESPECT TO REPORTING OF POLITICAL ACTIVITY, BUT SAID THAT FREEDOM DID NOT EXTEND TO FOREIGN AFFAIRS. AYALA SAID THE GOE HAD ASKED THE ECUADOREAN NEWS MEDIA TO EXERCISE PRUDENCE IN COMMENTING ON THE BORDER SITUATION AND HAD BEEN FAIRLY SUCCESSFUL IN ACHIEVING THIS, WITH EXCEPTION OF ONE WRITER IN EL UNIVERSO OF GUAYAQUIL. (THE WRITER TURNED OUT TO BE EX-PERUVIAN/SHILEAN COMMUNIST LEADER EUDOCIO RAVINES.)

6. AYALA EXPRESSED GREAT CONCERN THAT THE PERUVIANS WERE TRYING TO CAUSE PROBLEMS IN ORDER TO CLOSE THE BORDER JURIDICALLY ALONG THE UNDEMARCATED CORDILLERA DEL CONDOR, THUS DENYING ECUADOR THE POSSIBILITY FOR EVEN A TOKEN TERRITORIAL ACCESS TO THE MARANON RIVER

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S E C R E T SECTION 2 OF 2 QUITO 1121

LIMDIS

HE SAID HE BELIEVED THE GOP WAS TRYING TO CAUSE PROBLEMS
AS A PRETEXT TO ELICIT FROM THE POWERS GUARANTEEING THE
RIO PROTOCOL A STATEMENT WHICH COULD BE UTILIZED TO
RESOLVE THE BORDER PROBLEM ON PERU'S TERMS IN THIS MANNER.

7. AYALA SAID HE SAW ONLY TWO DIM GLIMMERS OF LIGHT IN
THE CURRENT SITUATION: A) THE FACT THAT ARGENTINA AND
CHILE HAVE ARRIVED ON AN AGREEMENT TO NEGOTIATE
THE BEAGLE DISPUTE, AND B) THAT THE GOP HAD SENT TO
ECUADOR AN ARMY GENERAL TO ATTEND THE SCHEDULED MEETING
OF INTELLIGENCE OFFICERS. (AYALA HAD EXPRESSED DOUBT
OVER PERUVIAN ATTENDANCE AT ONE PREVIOUS MEETING.) HE
EMPHASIZED THAT THE GOE INTENDED TO MOVE FORWARD ON
PROJECTED VISITS FROM ECUADOR TO PERU, I.E., THE VISIT
OF THE NAVAL TRAINING SHIP AND A VISIT BY THE COMMANDER
OF THE JOINT STAFF ADMIRAL OLMEDO.

8. AYALA STATED THAT HE HAD SUMMONED THE PERUVIAN

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AMBASSADOR TO COME TO THE MINISTRY ON THE SAME EVENING AND HAD WANTED TO INFORM THE USG OF THIS PRIOR TO HIS DISCUSSION WITH HIM. AYALA SAID THAT THE GOE INTENDED TO APOLOGIZE TO THE PERUVIAN AMBASSADOR FOR THE FEW HOT HEADED ARTICLES THAT HAD APPEARED IN THE ECUADOREAN PRESS ABOUT THE BORDER DISPUTE, AND TO CALL THE GOP'S ATTENTION TO THE GOE'S CONCERN ABOUT THE LARGE NUMBER OF PROVOCATIVE AND INSULTING ARTICLES APPEARING IN THE PERUVIAN PRESS ABOUT ECUADOR. HOWEVER, AYALA SAID THE GOE FEARED THAT THE GOP MIGHT USE HIS SUMMONING OF THE PERUVIAN AMBASSADOR AS A FURTHER PRETEXT TO BUILD UP ANTI-ECUADOREAN SENTIMENT. HE WISHED THE USG TO KNOW BEFORE HAND THAT THE GOE'S INTENTION WAS TO CALM MATTERS, NOT FURTHER STIR THEM UP.
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